Withdrawal of Cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir and its extension in North-Eastern States

† 347. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir State while the time period and the area of cease-fire in North-Eastern States have been extended; and

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Peace Initiative comprising restrictions on security forces initiating combat operations against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir was announced by Government keeping in view the longing for peace and normalcy amongst the people of J and K and with the hope that terrorist outfits will appreciate this and all violence in the State and infiltration across the Line of Control and the International Border will cease and an atmosphere conducive for holding dialogue would be created. However terrorist groups have not recognised the imperatives of peace, dialogue and cooperation and have not shunned violence thereby hindering the peace process and inflicting misery upon the people. In view of this the cease-fire was not extended further beyond May 31st 2001.

In North-Eastern States, Government has entered into cease-fire with NSCN (K) for a period of one year with effect from 28th April, 2001. The cease-fire is valid in the State of Nagaland. Cease-fire with NSCN *(VM)* which is in currency since 1.8.1997 has been further extended for a period of one year with effect from 1st August, 2001. The extension of cease-fire is without territorial limits. However the extension of area is being reviewed. Government is committed to holding talks to restoration of peace with all those militant groups who give up the path of violence.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.